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a detector coupled to said light source for detecting the light beam received by said workpiece, and for processing a deviation direction and a deviation amount based on a positional relationship between an image of said light beam shifted on the surface of said workpiece and a predetermined reference image.

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment, and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 1 has been amended to overcome all grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, thus traversing all grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph asserted against claims 1-6.

Applicants also note that as no art-based rejection has been asserted against claim 3, said claim is in condition for allowance.

Summary of the Art Rejections:

(1) Claims 1, 2, 4, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kuniyoshi et al. (U.S. 4,614,432, hereafter "Kuniyoshi").

(2) Claims 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Kuniyoshi.

(3) Claims 6 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Kuniyoshi in view of Yoshii et al. (U.S. 5,969,820, hereafter "Yoshii").